

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, KE

SUBJ: KENYAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REF: NAIROBI 4497; STATE 138212

JOINT STATE/USIA

1. REGRET DELAY. DEPT HAVING DIFFICULTY ASCERTAINING JACKSON FIVE AVAILABILITY DEC 8-16 DUE ABSENCE KEY PERSONNEL. MANAGEMENT CURRENTLY HAS GOK INVITATION UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE CONFIRM OR GIVE COST SPECIFICS. TOUR GROUP WOULD CONSIST OF AT LEAST 14 PEOPLE, INCLUDING BACK-UP MUSICIANS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL. ESTIMATED 2500 POUNDS EQUIPMENT. WILL ADVISE ASAP.

2. IN INTERIM EMB MAY WISH CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF LOCAL AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING OF ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT LOS ANGELES/NAIROBI AND PROBABLE PERFORMANCE FEE; ALSO POSSIBLE GOE USE TOWARDS FEE (REGULATIONS PRECLUDE USE OF GOE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FROM/TO U.S.). DEPT WILL ADVISE COST ESTIMATES AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOON AS KNOWN. UNFORTUNATELY DEPT WILL BE UNABLE FUND

SIGNIFICANT PORTION TRAVEL OR PROBABLE FEE.

3. BECAUSE OF CURRENT BUDGET LEVELS AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSE INVOLVED, DEPT AS MATTER OF POLICY DOES NOT FUND TRAVEL OF ANY PERFORMING GROUPS FROM THE U.S. TO A SINGLE COUNTRY ABROAD. WITH REDUCED BUDGETS, DEPT IN RECENT YEARS GENERALLY HAS HAD TO RELY ON PICKING UP ARTISTIC PANEL-APPROVED GROUPS ALREADY PLANNING AND PRIVATELY FUNDING TOURS TO ADJACENT COUNTRIES OR AREAS (AS CASE WITH ELLINGTON WHO WILL BE IN PARIS AND 1972 KENYA VISIT AMHERST GLEE CLUB).

4. ACCORDING RECENTLY-COMPLETED GENERAL SURVEY OF ARTISTS MANAGERS, NO ROCK OR SIMILAR GROUPS HAVE DEC TOUR PLANS FOR EUROPE OR AFRICA WHICH MIGHT BE PICKED UP FOR NAIROBI.

5. DEPT HAS NO SPECIAL OUTSIDE SOURCES FOR FUNDING THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

6. ELIMINATING KENYA FROM ELLINGTON TOUR WILL NOT PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ANOTHER GROUP FOR NAIROBI SINCE DEPT IN ESSENCE BOUGHT ONE WEEK OF ELLINGTON'S SERVICES. THEREFORE HE WILL BE SCHEDULED ELSEWHERE IF NAIROBI TURNS DOWN VISIT.

7. ELLINGTON TOUR HAD BEEN UNDER LENGTHY NEGOTIATION PRIOR RECEIPT YOUR 4014. KENYA WAS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR BRIEF TWO-COUNTRY VISIT. DEPT FELT PROPOSED VISIT MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR KENYAN INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY IF PUT INTO APPROPRIATE CONTEXT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOK OFFICIALS. HOWEVER NO REQUIREMENT ELLINGTON BE BILLED THIS WAY IF EMB DECIDES TO PROGRAM AND BELIEVES SUCH BILLING COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

8. IF EMB WISHES CONSIDER VISIT BY USG-FUNDED NON-MUSICAL EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL PERSONALITY AS A STAG ON OR ABOUT DEC 10-12, DEPT PREPARED EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF LINING UP SUCH VISITOR, MAYBE AS PART OF MULTI-COUNTRY TOUR. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF POST INTERESTED, WELCOME SUGGESTIONS. RUSH

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